

# Gender Justice in Africa: Historical & Comparative Perspectives

This symposium brings together some of the most innovative scholars at Rutgers and elsewhere working on gender justice in Africa to consider and compare alternative approaches to framing and seeking justice by, for and on behalf of women and men. Africa is an especially compelling site for such an analysis, given the rich scholarship on historical and contemporary gender justice regimes and the long term prevalence of alternative legal and extralegal processes and procedures. The format of the symposium is interactive – participants have submitted draft papers from which they will only speak briefly, maximizing time for discussion and debate. Everyone is invited to attend, but please rsvp to Renee Delancey at [rdelance@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:rdelance@rci.rutgers.edu) by February 10th to receive access to the precirculated papers and for lunch (which is provided).

**Friday, February 24th, 2012 9am-5pm**

**Rutgers University**

**Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 1st Floor Conference Room**

**162 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ**

## **Panel I Colonial Contestations**

**Andrea Cornwall** (Sussex),  
“Women’s Empowerment:  
Tales from 19th Century  
Southwestern Nigeria”

**Dorothy Hodgson** (Rutgers),  
“Colonial Legal Regimes,  
Customary Law and Gender  
Justice among Maasai  
Pastoralists in Tanganyika,  
1916-1961”

**Emily Burrill** (UNC),  
“Rule by Decrees: The Mandel  
and Jacquinet Decrees and  
Questions of Marital Rights in  
French Soudan (Mali), 1939-  
1951”

## **Panel II Beyond Legal Pluralism?**

**Jessica Johnson** (Cambridge),  
“Gender Justice? Marital  
Dispute Resolution in Rural  
Malawi”

**Ousseina Alidou** (Rutgers),  
“Muslim Women Reshaping the  
Law: The Constitution and the  
Khadi’s Court in Kenya”

**Barbara M. Cooper** (Rutgers),  
“Reflections at the Intersection  
of Law and Medicine: Debating  
the Rights of Babies and  
Mothers (Real and Potential)  
in the Sahel”

## **Panel III States of Struggle**

**Abena Busia** (Rutgers),  
“Gender Justice in Africa:  
Quotidian Lessons from  
Women Writing Africa”

**Zakia Salime** (Rutgers),  
“Where Did all the Women  
Come From? Before the Arab  
Spring”

**Pamela Scully** (Emory),  
“National Action Plans, Gender  
Justice, and the Drive to Count”

**Chiseche Salome Mibenge**  
(Lehman/CUNY), “The Scholar-  
Consultant and the GBV Field  
Mission in Conflict Africa”

## **Final Discussion: Perspectives on Gender Justice**

Rapporteur: Susan Hirsch (George Mason)

**Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Center for  
African Studies & Institute for Research on Women**